

Quid Novi



VOL. IX NO.12

McGILL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW
FACULTE DE DROIT DE L'UNIVERSITE MCGILL

January 10, 1989
le 10 janvier, 1988

An Interview With The Psychoanalyst of Nations:

An Exclusive for the *Quid Novi*

By David Wallbridge, LL.B II

The interview took place amidst the clouds as we crossed the Atlantic Ocean. Dr. Seymour Gravity, the Psychoanalyst of nations appeared relaxed. Dressed in his characteristic white suit, sporting a Fedora, he sipped orange juice, and ate Fig Newtons as we discussed various issues that make his practice interesting.

Interviewer: Dr. Gravity, you have asked that we keep your destination a secret. Is this common practice?

Psychoanalyst: Yes. This is because countries have complex personalities. Patients can be very jealous. Some are just plain manipulative and they might try to influence the process. For these reasons, I make housecalls...

Interviewer: How do you prepare for each case?

Psychoanalyst: Initially, I immerse myself in the general history of a patient, then I seek to address the contemporary problems, say in the last 25 years. But there are at least as many problems as there are countries: the older countries are symmetry compulsive. Many of the Western countries tend to be bulimic, although this century we have seen cases of depression induced anorexia... One kleptomaniac who refused treatment caused World War

II! So how do I prepare? The short answer is 'carefully'.

Interviewer: Are there cases that are more difficult for you personally?

Psychoanalyst: Yes - the battered countries. They're reluctant to speak initially. After an invasion, for example, you have to regain their trust. This takes time.

Interviewer: Do all countries see psychoanalysts?

Psychoanalyst: It's fair to say that at one time or another most countries do. Some of the developing countries don't, but this is basically a funding problem that the U.N. is working on.

Interviewer: How long does it take to solve a country's problem?

Psychoanalyst: It depends... on the country, and the problem!

Interviewer: Can you be more specific?

Psychoanalyst: Well, let's say the problem is technical. Say, a country can't get its shuttle up. The therapy is relatively straightforward. You get the country to relax, to concentrate less on performance and to return to the basics that got them to the stars in the first place. Strictly, short term stuff.

Interviewer: What about long term psychological problems?

Psychoanalyst: Well, it's no secret that I see the super-powers on a regular basis.

Interviewer: Really?

Psychoanalyst: What do you think? All that libido and nowhere to go. Neurotic trends surface like dandelions: Messianic complexes, aggressive behavior, paranoid mood swings, defense budgets skyrocketing. And these proxy fights in third world countries are just not satisfying. They're placebos. To make matters worse the little countries have 'Napoleon Complexes' these days and they fight like hell. It's a vicious circle.

Interviewer: They're difficult clients?

Psycholoanalyst: We're talking moon-size egos, but basically they have the human frailties that make my job interesting.

Interviewer: Do you like your job?

Psychoanalyst: Like? What's there to like? It's a living. I can't complain. Ask Haiti, or Ethiopia how they like what they're doing in this world! Personally I

cont'd on p.4



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Environnement et désarmement

par Pierre-Marc Johnson. Mercredi, 11 janvier 1989, salle 202, 12h00.

Organisé par LSR / Avocats pour une conscience sociale.

Un Message du comité de "Skit Nite '89" Concours "Trouver le Thème"

"Skit Nite '89" aura lieu le 16 mars prochain. La salle est réservée, l'orchestre est formé, tout le monde se prépare. Mais, il nous manque un thème.

Ces dernières années les thèmes furent "David Lawyerman", "Saturday Night Law" and "P.T.L." (Praise the law) - tous des thèmes fortement inculturés dans notre réalité québécoise.

Faites-nous part de vos idées. Déposez vos suggestions dans la boîte du "Skit Nite" au bureau de l'A.E.D. avant vendredi le 10 janvier 1989 à 17h00.

Prix: 1er 2 places réservées sur la première rangée lors du "Skit Nite"

2ème 1 gaminet (traduction de l'Office de la langue française pour "t-shirt") de "Skit Nite"

Les noms des gagnants seront annoncés le 24 janvier dans le *Quid*.

Committee announcement Skit Nite '89 Theme contest

Skit Nite '89 is March 16th! The Ballroom is reserved, the band is ready to go. Enthusiasm is running high. All that is missing is a theme. In the past, such themes as "David Lawyerman", "Saturday Night Law" and the ever-popular "PTL (Praise the Law)" have been used. What about this year?

Submit your ideas for a theme in the Skit Nite box in the L.S.A. office by Friday, January 13 at 5:00 p.m. The prizes are:

1st Two front row seats to Skit Nite '89
2nd Skit Nite '89 T-shirt

Winner (if any) announced in the January 24 edition of the *Quid*.

Computer Facilities Expanded:

Starting very early in the new year, the Faculty's computing facilities on the fourth floor of the library will be upgraded and expanded. Thanks largely to the generosity of Dean Macdonald, we will acquire a computer "network" that can link up all ten of the IBM "clones" to allow for multiple users, concurrent database searches and eventually, interactive teaching programs. The whole system will be equipped with a centralized printing area, featuring both laser and dot-matrix printers.

This set-up more closely parallels the type of computer system one might find in some of the large firms. Moreover, the bilingual software that will be installed is used by virtually all of the Montreal firms and by other legal institutions. If you can grow familiar with the operation of the McGill "Mini" as it is called, then you will be able to easily adapt to many of the analogous computer systems, wherever you might happen to be.

Access to the new system will be even easier than before. Eventually, it will all be done on a "password" basis, much like the Quicklaw searches are done now, but in the interim period, we will still be requiring students to purchase "User Cards". The very modest price is ten (10) dollars per undergraduate per semester, and twenty (20) dollars per graduate student per semester. These cards are non-transferable, and are available at Sadie's or in the Law Library. We encourage you to buy

your card early in the semester, so as to get the most use out of it. At peak periods the computers get terribly crowded, and at these times each user is limited to two hours per day.

The "User Card" system is imperfect at best. The entire cost of acquiring these computers was borne by the alumni, the Dean and by the undergraduate students of the LSA. We need to cover our operating and maintenance costs by charging these user fees. Despite the eminently reasonable price, some students insist on cheating by trying to use other students' cards, and several non-students have found their way onto the machines. In April, we will be asking the student body to vote for a fee-assessment which spreads these costs across the student body as a whole. Computers are a valuable and ever-growing part of legal practice, and of the law school experience. Many people predict that computer literacy will become an absolute prerequisite to working as a lawyer. In the upcoming weeks, you will be given more information about our fee-assessment proposal. We encourage you to vote "yes" on the fee-assessment, in order to keep McGill competitive in this area.

Colin Baxter - Chair-person
L.S.A. Computer Committee

Fourth Year: The Twilight Zone

By Ali Argun, LL.B IV

Last Tuesday, I woke up at 7:00 AM. It was dark outside because even the Sun God hadn't yet deemed it appropriate to rise. I dragged myself from bed, having quickly gotten accustomed to getting up five hours later over the pitifully short Christmas break. I showered and shaved, and left for the venerable educational institution that has been my Mecca for the last three and a half years. As usual, the bus was mankind's attempt to prove that sardines are not the only life form that can be over-squashed into a small, enclosed space. Getting off the bus, I began my trek to the "fac" in a sweltering -20 degrees Celcius, wind chill niping at my... well, basically everything. I walked into New C.D.H. to find the lobby crammed with the happy faces which I have grown to put names to during my sojourn here. After the obligatory "Happy New Year, how was your break?" "You too, too short", I was promptly informed that Prof. Atala had decided to stay in bed!!! Then I found out that Prof. Burman doesn't like to start classes before U. of Montreal does. Which meant that I didn't have to be anywhere near the building 'till 6:00 P.M.!!! I uncharacteristically kept my mouth shut, looked to the heavens and despaired: "What the ? am I doing here?"

It's Wednesday, the day after, and Prof. Atala is still in bed. I don't know where Prof. Burman is. Me? Here I sit, before a computer console, bought with the generous contribution of I-don't-know-who, hoping that this electronic equivalent of chicken scratchings will prove to be a cathartic experience.

So what's on my mind? Basically, I'm asking myself why I'm here for a fourth year. Did I really have to do four years for the two degrees or could I have done all my obligs and semi-obligs in three years, sacrificing a few complementary credits to save a year?

When I was in first year, an elder sage told me

that in first year, you're scared to death; in second, you're worked to death; in third year you strike a balance; in fourth year, you party to death. Well, I'm not dead yet! Sorry! I should've tried harder, I know. But, there you go.

I have hope though. If the frustration of unannounced cancellations doesn't get me, the boredom of killing time will. But even there, there's a danger. I get involved in activities, and that alleviates some stress (when I'm not discouraged by the lack of involvement by a large majority of students who prefer to wait their turn to question why fourth year is so useless?) Someday, maybe there'll be a larger number of interesting courses for those of us serving out the last months of our sentence (like the allusion to criminal law?) Then again, what difference will that make? They'll all be scheduled onto the same time block. And the exams will all be on the last day of the exam period. Conflict? What conflict?

I also have an answer for those purists who will immediately say that I'm narrow minded and that doing everything in three years would deprive me of getting a broad perspective of the diverse areas of law. Yeah right, like Immigration Law with "Prof." Grey? I got all the dissertations on Russian and Dickensian literature I wanted during my B.A. years, thanks much. (Or better yet, Judicial Law and Evidence with "Prof." Lucas ?????) And if you want my horizons to be broadened, let me take courses of interest outside the faculty more easily. And why not recognize French courses (i.e. grammar and conversation courses at the Languages Dept.) as worthy of the Law Faculty's approbation?

Yes, it's true. I admit it. I'm a little jaded after six and a half years of university.

And I'm also dismayed at the prospect of having to spend another year at bar school learning how to buy photocopiers, being told that periods generally go at the end of sentences, and that people who blink often are either nervous or wear contact lenses!!! And don't be six minutes late otherwise you'll be present but absent. Rod Serling, this IS the Twilight Zone!!!

With a little luck and God willing, I'll have earned my degrees at the end of this term. As a whole, it's been a positive experience. I've had fun. Oh, I've been challenged intellectually too, even though exam results have nothing to do with what I know or don't know about any given topic. And Norbert wants me to say that this year's L.S.A. President did a lot to make life much more bearable.

I believe I've contributed to the life of this place. I hope to continue doing so in the future. But, the experience would be no less rich if shortened to three years.

Letter: Food Basket Update

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, faculty and staff for their generous contributions to the Holiday Food Basket. Thanks to your support we were able to donate a large box of food, wool tuques and \$145 to Sun Youth and Garde-Manger. These donations were received in time for distribution at Christmas.

Thank you for helping to make the holidays happier for those in need.

Lisa Balaban and Robin Reid.

Quid Novi is published weekly by students at the Faculty of Law of McGill University, 3644 Peel Street, Montreal, H3A 1W9. Production is made possible by support of the Dean's office and by direct funding from the students. Opinions expressed are those of the author only. Contributions are published at the discretion of the editor and must indicate author or origin.

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Treasurer Normand
Trésorier Perreault

Contributors
Participants Patricia Armstrong
 Mayo Moran
 Phillip Pike

Quid Novi est une publication hebdomadaire assurée par les étudiants de la faculté de droit de l'université McGill, 3644 rue Peel, Montréal, H3A 1W9. La publication est rendue possible grâce à l'appui du bureau du doyen, ainsi que par le financement individuel des étudiants. Les opinions exprimées sont propres à l'auteur. Toute contribution n'est publiée qu'à la discrétion du comité de rédaction et doit indiquer l'auteur où son origine.

Calendar of Events

- | | | |
|---------|------------------|---|
| Jan. 11 | 12h00 | Environment and Disarmament
by Prof. Pierre-Marc Johnson
Room 202 |
| Jan. 12 | 15h00 -
18h00 | Happy House Coffee Hour I
Common Room |
| Jan. 12 | 21h00 - | Welcome Back Party featuring the "Cool Monsoons".
Pour la bnfefice des "Law Games".
Common Room |
| Jan. 19 | 15h00 -
18h00 | Happy House Coffee Hour II
Common Room |
| Jan. 20 | | Careers Day
Chancellor Day Hall |

Psychoanalyst of Nations cont'd from p.1

feel lucky.

Interviewer: Do you have favourite clients?

Psychoanalyst: Sure. My favourite client right now, is a young bilingual country, with a new constitution. Honest dialogue is still possible there. It's an idealistic country by nature in the best sense, although sometimes it doesn't realize it ... that's where I come in.

Interviewer: I think I know who you mean. Given that patient's dilemma do you think it is possible to remain objective in face of problems of cultural identity? Is cultural tension inevitable?

Psychoanalyst: That's a very heavy question... but I'm glad someone asked it. I get paid to be objective ... Maybe that's my incentive. For what it's worth, my professional opinion is that cultural identity, and ultimately cultural survival, hinges on a pure

conception of faith ... faith in the value of one's culture, or if you like one's own language. Given a dominant geo-political cultural trait the suppression of minority characteristics not only causes internal dissonance, it undermines the entire personality. In short, there is no substitute for faith in one's self. And in my humble opinion, a culture, lacking in true faith, in spirituality, is doomed to be a mere reflection of its exterior. The enemy, dare I say, is within...

Interviewer: What is to be done?

Psychoanalyst: In these types of cases, I usually prescribe a Charter therapy. All things being equal, if reason doesn't triumph over passion, I take two aspirins and call the country in the morning.

Interviewer: Do you have any advice for the world's countries?

Psychoanalyst: Face your problems now, and you won't pass them on to your children.

Careers Day

January 20, 1989

Your Future Depends on It

Jennifer Dolman, LL.B III

Careers Day is just two short weeks away. It's time to start pressing those suits and getting your questions ready. Now's the time to complete those resumés and covering letters. Here's the agenda for that infamous **January 20:**

- 10:30 - 11:30 registration for visitors
- 11:30 - 1:00 lunch (sorry - students aren't invited)
- 1:00 - 4:00 booths will be set up in the common room and on second floor of New Chancellor Day Hall. Brochures will be available for distribution.
- 4:00 - ?? Cocktails (**ALL STUDENTS INVITED**)

Now for a sneak preview of just who is appearing on the 20th. Please note - this is not a complete list. Many firms and especially organizations have either not replied to our invitation or have respectfully declined. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Toronto Firms (no particular order)

Goodman and Carr
Borden and Elliot
Cassels, Brock & Blackwell
Genest, Murray DesBrisay
Goodman & Goodman
Blake, Cassels & Graydon
McCarthy & McCarthy
Fasken & Calvin
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt
Davies, Ward & Beck
Aird & Berlis
Rogers, Bereskin & Parr
Tory, Tory, Deslauriers & Binnington
Fraser & Beatty
Smith, Lyons
Day, Wilson, Campbell
Stikeman, Elliott
McDonald & Hayden

Montreal Firms (again, in no particular order)

Leger, Robic & Richard
McKenzie Gervais
Heenan Blaikie
McAllister, Blakely, Hesler & LaPierre
Meyerovitch, Goldstein, Flanz and Fishman
Lengvari, Braman, Trudel
Kandestin, Kugler
Byers Casgrain
Ogilvy Renault
Clarkson, Tetrault
Spiegel Sohmer
Martineau Walker
Clark Woods
Robinson Sheppard
Phillips & Vineberg
Lapointe Rosenstein

Ottawa Firms

Gowling and Henderson
Macera and Jarzyna

Burke, Robertson Chadwick & Ritchie
Smart & Biggar
Beament, Green, York, Manton
Perley-Robertson, Panet, Hill & McDougall
Hamilton, Appotive
Soloway, Wright, Houston

Vancouver Firms

Guild, Yule, Lane, Sullivant
Ferguson Gifford

Other Organizations

*Note - we are still in the process of arranging for more non-firm representation. We did not receive responses other than these ones.

Barreau du Québec
Ministry of the Ontario Attorney General
C.R.T.C.
Department of Justice
Leopold Property Consultants Inc.

Bar/Bri - New York Bar Review Program

Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia define only the limits of your imagination, not the possibilities available to you as a law school graduate. Alternatives do exist outside of Canada, and New York is one of the more attractive of these. Bar/Bri offers the most extensive of all the bar preparatory courses in New York, as well as offering preparatory courses for bar exams in most other states.

Being a member of the New York Bar also has attractive advantages for the student who is not necessarily interested in practicing law, either in Canada or in the States. If you are considering working abroad, being a member of the New York Bar carries considerable weight with overseas companies.

All those interested in either writing the New York Bar, or simply in obtaining more information, are asked to contact Joani Tannenbaum at 989-1529 for details.

Whether or not to work in a law firm for the summer:

by Richard Rosensweig, BCL. II

Do you have to work in the summer? If you need to work (ie. you need the money), then you no doubt have been considering the possibility of working for a large Montreal law firm. This may not be the right choice for you but you should have an idea of what to expect if you are considering this type of employment.

Recruitment

There are no rules for Quebec law firms that regulate recruitment procedure. As the faculty is legally forbidden from releasing academic information to law firms, there is no fixed recruitment procedure. Firms that do recruit aggressively somehow acquire the names of students who are doing well in the faculty, and solicit interviews with them, while certain firms seem to approach almost every student in the faculty.

Although the firms that do recruit aggressively tend to be large and prestigious they are not necessarily the "best" firms. It is the policy of many fine Montreal firms not to approach students aside from the opportunity provided by Careers Day here at the faculty. The distinction between firms that recruit aggressively and those that do not may not tell you anything about the "quality" of the firm, but it may be indicative of the mentality of the firm, and how its students are treated.

The Interview

Whether the firm sought you out, or vice-versa, once you get to the interview stage all candidates tend to get equal treatment. Every firm has its own interview style, some are very cordial, others can be confrontational. My own experience was of relaxed and polite discussion, where there was as much of an attempt to sell the firm to me, as there was for me to sell myself to the firm.

Although my own experience with interview-

ing was positive, horror stories about certain firms have been circulating in the faculty. One famous tale has the interviewer coyly suggesting that the interviewee open a window that has been nailed shut. Whether this is apocryphal or not, you should keep in mind that interviewers may be putting you through certain tests during the course of the interviews.

Life at the Firm

If you are working for a large firm the little inconveniences that have always plagued your research and studying will quickly disappear. Speaking from my own experience, firm libraries are small and well organized with everything at your fingertips. The worry of typing is removed as typists and dictaphones are at one's disposal: unreported judgements and computer access are

only a phone call away. While the availability of these services may vary, I believe that any law firm in downtown Montreal will provide enough support staff to free students of the lacking resources that so often delay work here at the Faculty.

Another aspect of law firm life to be aware of is its education program. Although I am unaware of the general practice, the firm that I worked for had informal weekly lunch-lectures. Lawyers from within the firm would prepare topics from their field of expertise and deliver lectures to students and other lawyers.

At a social level, all lawyers (including senior partners) in the office where I worked were friendly and approachable. They were willing to discuss any concerns and offer

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DISARMAMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT:

Separate Issues or Twin Solutions to the Same Problem?

What do the build-up of nuclear arms and our serious environmental problems have to do with each other?

On Wednesday, January 11th at Noon, Pierre Marc Johnson will speak on the social and political aspects of these related issues. Mr. Johnson, the past Premier of Quebec, is singularly well-situated to discuss the administrative problems that confront environmental clean-ups, such as St. Basile, and with the seeming paralysis of government when faced with such an emergency. The perennially inadequate funding of both provincial and federal environmental agencies is no doubt a major cause of this perceived inadequacy.

Au Canada, une forte majorité des citoyens considère le problème de l'environnement comme le plus important des années 90. Pourtant, et l'accident à St-Basile nous l'a bien démontré, le pouvoir politique semble se heurter à des difficultés financières et administratives insurmontables lorsqu'il tente de faire face à ce problème. Qu'en est-il exactement? Que peuvent faire les gouvernements? Pierre-Marc Johnson tentera de répondre à ces questions et aux vôtres.

Bienvenue à tous et à toutes. Casse croûte sur place.

Everyone is welcome. Bring your questions. Snacks provided.

Sponsored by L.S.R./A.P.C.S.

Law Firms cont'd from p.6

advice regardless of whether the questions concerned work for themselves or another lawyer. Moreover, work was doled out personally by lawyers and student-program coordinators. Certain firms are known to have more anonymous memo systems where contact between lawyers and students is not encouraged.

Life Outside the Firm

This part of summer-work says more about a law firm as far as its personality is concerned than any other factor. Almost all Montreal firms have a soft-ball team. Some firms have only male students playing on their teams while other firms encourage *all* lawyers and students to participate. This

may seem like a silly distinction, but it tends to reflect the attitude of a firm.

Get togethers and parties are certainly a part of working life at many firms. However, students should not expect the many fringe benefits that come with summer jobs in Toronto and New York. Complementary show tickets and health-club memberships are unknown among Montreal firms. Fringe benefits tend to be more in the line of dinners or baseball tickets.

The Work

Hours are very long, with average workdays being twelve hours. The nature of the work ranges from monotonous drudgery (such as filing) to exciting research and lawyering (for example, trials, client meetings, meetings with judges, even witness examination).

Speaking from experience, the work that I did during the summer was challenging and rewarding, with a great deal of variety. The amount of gopher work was definitely minimal.

It is fairly obvious that my experience was very positive, and I have heard of very few that were not. If you are considering working for a Montreal law firm this summer, don't be too influenced by the usual response of those who do not work: "Work in a law firm? You're going to do that for the rest of your life! Enjoy yourself while you can!"

You can enjoy yourself in a law firm, it is rewarding and educational without the grinding pressure that is part and parcel of the early years of legal practice. Moreover, it makes the study of law here at the faculty seem relaxed and leisurely by comparison.

Sports Corner Le Coin des Sportifs

Law Games

The deadline for final payment is Thursday, January 12, 1989. The reason for this early date is that the deadline for submitting a final list of participants to the Organizing Committee is Friday, January 13, 1989. The amount of the payment depends on whether or not you will be using the provided transportation as well as on other factors. Payment must be made on one of the following days:

- Monday, January 9 between 12:00 and 2:00 in the Pit
- Tuesday, January 10 between 12:00 and 2:00 in the Pit
- Thursday, January 12 between 12:00 and 1:00 in the Pit

If you cannot make any of these times, please contact Anthony Fata.

If for whatever reason, you have already made a deposit but no longer wish to participate, please contact a member of the Sports Committee or your Class President as soon as possible.

Attention Galloping Gourmets and Would-be Julia Childs:

The Sports Committee needs baked goods for the Welcome Back party-concert this Thursday (January 12). Anyone interested please contact Anthony Fata of the Sports Committee.

Jeux Ridiques

La balance doit être acquittée au plus tard, le jeudi 12 janvier 1989. Elle doit être payée aussi tôt car il faut remettre notre liste de participants avant le vendredi 13 janvier 1989. Le montant que vous aurez à payer dépend de plusieurs critères incluant le besoin de transport ou non. Le paiement doit être fait à l'une des dates suivantes:

- le lundi 9 janvier entre 12h00 et 14h00 dans le "Pit"
- le mardi 10 janvier entre 12h00 et 14h00 dans le "Pit" ou
- le jeudi 12 janvier entre 12h00 et 13h00 dans le "Pit"

Si ces périodes ne vous conviennent pas, veuillez s'il vous plaît communiquer avec Anthony Fata.

Si vous avez déjà payer votre dépôt mais vous ne pouvez plus participer, veuillez communiquer avec un membre du comité des sports ou avec votre président de classe.